



David Pollard

1872 – 1915

David was born in Thornhill Lees in 1872. His father was Thomas Pollard, a Cloth Finisher born in Rawdon near Leeds in 1829 and died in 1882. His mother was Hannah (nee Dyson) born in Huddersfield in 1828 and died in 1894. They were married on 8th July 1855 at St. John the Baptist Church, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield.

Their other children were; James Henry, born in Huddersfield in 1857, Mary Ann, born in Leeds in 1859, Albert, born in Batley in 1861 and Sarah Elizabeth, born in Batley in 1866.

On the 1861 census, the family lived at Wellington Street, Batley, in 1871 at Nursery, Thornhill, in 1881 at High Street, Dewsbury and in 1891 at 11, Cromwell Street, Dewsbury when his occupation was recorded as a Forge Hand.

On 4th November 1898 he enlisted at Pontefract into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 5930 and served for 8 years, being transferred to the Army Reserve on 3rd November 1906 and was discharged 2nd November 1910. He served in the South African Campaign (Boer War) from 1900 to 1902 and was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps for Cape Colony and Transvaal and the King's South Africa Medal with two clasps.

David was married to a widow, Helena/Lena Hardisty, nee Smithson (born in 1880 and died in 1956) at All Saints Church, Dewsbury on 11th September 1909. They lived at Back Webster Street, Dewsbury and did not have any children. His occupation on the 1911 census is given as a Labourer in a Woollen Mill. He was employed by Messrs Fred Ellis and Company in Dewsbury and was a member of the Gladstone Club on Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Helena was previously married on 25th July 1903 at Salem Congregational Church, Oak Lane, Manningham, Bradford to Walter Hardisty (born in 1879), but he died a few months later. She was remarried in 1917 to a William Milnes (born in 1882 and died in 1955).

He was recalled at the outbreak of war on 5th August 1914, rejoining the 1st/4th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry with the Service Number 2296, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal and was sent to the Western Front on 13th April 1915. Whilst serving in Belgium he was severely wounded in the thigh, face and chest by a bursting shrapnel shell; he was taken to hospital near Elverdinghe, but died of his wounds on 4th August 1915. He was buried Ferme-Olivier Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. David was awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

His wife received a letter from his Commanding Officer, Lt. Colonel Haslegrave dated 6th August informing her of his death and expressing his heartfelt sympathy. The Colonel's wife also sent a letter of sympathy.

Ferme-Olivier Cemetery is located 7 kilometres north west of Ieper (Ypres) town centre. The cemetery was used continuously between 9th June 1915 and 5th August 1917, with the 62nd, 16th, 9th, 11th, 129th and 130th Field Ambulances successively having dressing stations close by. Throughout this period, the village was just within range of the German artillery. The cemetery contains 408 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 6 of which are unidentified.

David is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library.

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
D Pollard

2296, 4th Bn., King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died on 04 August 1915

Remembered with Honour
Ferne-Olivier Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.